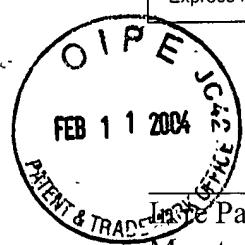


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Docket No.: 03404/000K075-US0
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Patent Application of:
Masato Takahashi, et al.

Application No.: 09/998,621

Art Unit: 3727

Filed: November 30, 2001

Examiner: R. Hylton

For: SEALING ELEMENT, HERMETIC
CONTAINER AND SEALING METHOD
THEREOF

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

In response to the Final Office Action dated August 12, 2003 (Paper No. 7), finally rejecting claims 1-10 and 12, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Drawings are attached as replacement sheets following page 6 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 7 of this paper.